

CLAIMS

1-25 (cancelled)

26. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 21, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

at least two energy absorbers mechanically coupling a net and an anchor;

a support mechanically coupled to the net via a frangible connector; and

a crossbar mechanically coupling points of the at least two [or more] energy absorbers
[arranged on an anchor] ,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of
at least a threshold force to the frangible connector.

27-28 (cancelled)

29. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 27, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

an energy absorber mechanically coupled to a net;

a joint mechanically coupled to the energy absorber;

a sleeve rotatably mechanically coupled to [the] an anchor and mechanically coupled to
the joint; and

a support mechanically coupled to the net via a frangible connector,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector, and wherein the joint pivots on a horizontal axis.

30. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 27, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

two or more energy absorbers mechanically coupled to a net;

two or more joints, each of the two or more joints mechanically coupling at least one of the two or more energy absorbers and an anchor;

a crossbar mechanically coupling points of the two or more joints; and

a support mechanically coupled to the net via a frangible connector,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector, and wherein each of the two or more joints pivots on a horizontal axis.

31-66 (cancelled)

67. (amended) [The energy absorbing method of claim 64, further comprising:] A method for absorbing the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

positioning a net across an area through which the vehicle is expected to pass, the net being mechanically coupled to an anchor via two or more energy absorbers; and

attaching a crossbar mechanically coupling points of the two or more energy absorbers arranged on [an] the anchor;

mechanically coupling the net to a support through a frangible connector,
wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at
least a threshold force to the frangible connector by the vehicle and the force of the vehicle is
transferred through the net to the anchor.

68-69 (cancelled)

70. (amended) [The energy absorbing method of claim 68,] A method for absorbing the
energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

positioning a net across an area through which the vehicle is expected to pass, the net
being mechanically coupled an energy absorber, which is mechanically coupled to a joint,
which is mechanically coupled to [wherein] a sleeve, which is rotatably mechanically
[couples the] coupled to an anchor [and the joint]; and

mechanically coupling the net to a support through a frangible connector,
wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at
least a threshold force to the frangible connector by the vehicle and the force of the vehicle is
transferred through the net to the anchor, and wherein the joint pivots on a horizontal axis.

71. (amended) [The energy absorbing method of claim 68, further comprising:] A method for
absorbing the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

positioning a net across an area through which the vehicle is expected to pass, the net
being mechanically coupled to two or more energy absorbers, the two energy absorbers

mechanically coupled to two or more joints, the two or more joints mechanically coupled to an anchor;

attaching a crossbar mechanically coupling points of two or more joints; and

mechanically coupling the net to a support through a frangible connector,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector by the vehicle and the force of the vehicle is transferred through the net to the anchor, and wherein the joints pivot on a horizontal axis.

72. (original) A method for absorbing the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

positioning a net across an area through which the vehicle is expected to pass, the net being mechanically coupled to an anchor;

mechanically coupling the net to a support through a frangible connector; and

changing the height of a support, thereby changing the height of the net,

wherein the frangible connector uncouples the support from the net upon application of at least a threshold force to the frangible connector by the vehicle,

wherein the force of the vehicle is transferred through the net to the anchor,

wherein a sleeve rotatably mechanically couples the anchor and a joint, and

wherein an energy absorber mechanically couples the net and the joint.

73. (cancelled)

74. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 73, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

means for absorbing energy;

means for restraining a vehicle, the restraining means being connected to the energy

absorbing means to enable the transfer of energy from a vehicle impacting the restraining

means to the energy absorbing means;

means for permitting the restraining means to rotate about the energy absorbing means;

and

means for supporting the restraining means in a position likely to be impacted by an

errant vehicle until the application of at least a threshold force by the vehicle to the

restraining means.

75. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 73, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

means for absorbing energy;

means for restraining a vehicle, the restraining means being connected to the energy

absorbing means to enable the transfer of energy from a vehicle impacting the restraining

means to the energy absorbing means;

means for pivoting the restraining means on a horizontal axis; and

means for supporting the restraining means in a position likely to be impacted by an

errant vehicle until the application of at least a threshold force by the vehicle to the

restraining means.

76-81 (cancelled)

82. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 78, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

two or more energy absorbers, mechanically coupling a net to an anchor; and

a crossbar mechanically coupling points of the two or more energy absorbers arranged on [an] the anchor; and

a support mechanically coupled to the net,

wherein the anchor and the support are arranged such that at least a portion of the net between the anchor and the support is substantially parallel to a likely direction of a vehicle to be stopped by the energy absorbing system.

83-90 (cancelled)

91. (amended) [The energy absorbing system of claim 90, further comprising:] An energy absorbing system comprising:

a first anchor to which a first sleeve is rotatably mechanically coupled;

a first energy absorber mechanically coupling the first sleeve and a net;

a second anchor to which a second sleeve is rotatably mechanically coupled;

a second energy absorber mechanically coupling the second sleeve and the net; and

first and second supports, each mechanically coupled to the net,

wherein the first anchor and the first support are arranged such that at least a portion of the net between the first anchor and the first support is substantially parallel to a likely direction of a vehicle to be stopped by the energy absorbing system,

wherein the first and second energy absorbers are arranged in a direction not substantially perpendicular to a likely direction of a vehicle to be stopped by the energy absorbing system, and

wherein the first sleeve rotates about an axis of the first anchor when a force is applied to the net.--